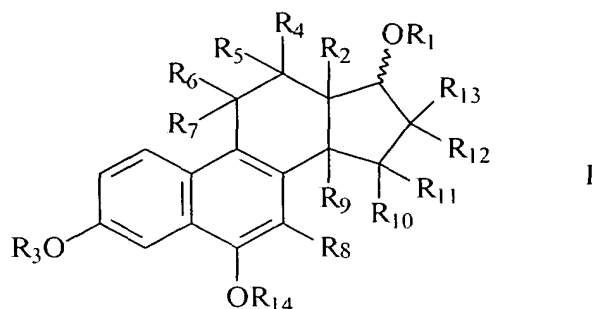


**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by Formula I:



wherein:

the bond represented by the wavy line may be a single or double bond such that when the wavy line is a single bond, R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucoronate or other esters, and when the wavy line is a double bond, R<sub>1</sub> does not exist;

R<sub>2</sub> is lower alkyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, and glucoronide or other esters a conjugate thereof;

~~R<sub>4</sub> through R<sub>13</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, ketone, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and carbonyl groups; and~~

R<sub>4</sub> through R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> through R<sub>13</sub> may be the same or different and each represents hydrogen, hydroxy, ketone, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, or carbonyl group;

R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and carbonyl groups; and

R<sub>14</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, and glucoronide or other esters a conjugate thereof;

(c) said compound being present in chemically pure form.

2-3. (Cancelled).

4. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein said compound is greater than about 95% pure.

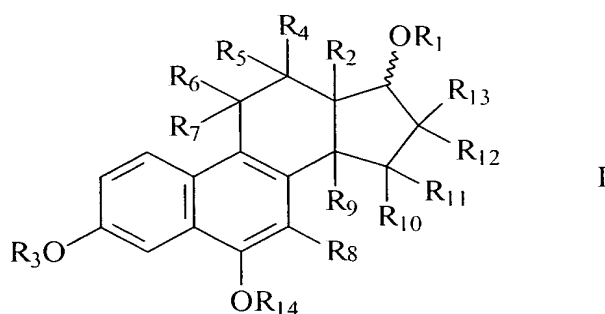
5. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein  $R_2$  is  $C_1$  to  $C_4$  alkyl,  $R_4$ - $R_{12}$  are hydrogen and  $R_{13}$  is hydrogen or ethynyl.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein when  $R_1$  is ~~hydroxy~~ hydrogen, the compound has a  $\beta$  orientation.

7. The compound according to Claim 1 in conjugated form.

8-9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition incorporating a compound represented by Formula I:



wherein:

the bond represented by the wavy line may be a single or double bond such that when the wavy line is a single bond,  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronate and other esters, and when the wavy line is a double bond,  $R_1$  does not exist;

$R_2$  is lower alkyl;

$R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, ~~and~~ glucoronide or ~~other~~ esters a conjugate thereof;

~~$R_4$  through  $R_{13}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, ketone, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and carbonyl groups; and~~

$R_4$  through  $R_7$  and  $R_{10}$  through  $R_{13}$  may be the same or different and each represents hydrogen, hydroxy, ketone, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, or carbonyl group;

$R_8$  and  $R_9$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and carbonyl groups; and

$R_{14}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, ~~and~~ glucoronide or ~~other esters~~ a conjugate thereof;

said compound being present in chemically pure form.

11-12. (Cancelled).

13. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10, wherein said compound is greater than about 95% pure.

14. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10, wherein  $R_2$  is  $C_1$  to  $C_4$  alkyl,  $R_4$ - $R_{12}$  are hydrogen and  $R_{13}$  is hydrogen or ethynyl.

15. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10, wherein when  $R_1$  is ~~hydroxy~~ hydrogen, the compound has a  $\beta$  orientation.

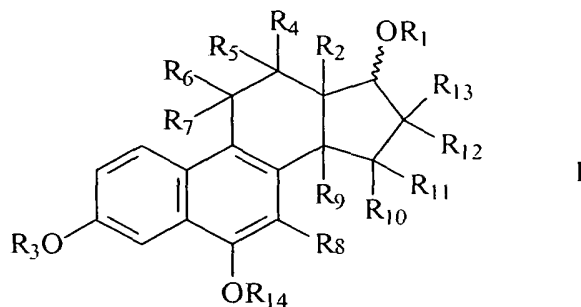
16. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10, wherein said compound is in conjugated form.

17. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10, wherein the composition further comprises at least one additional pharmaceutically active ingredient.

18. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 17, wherein the at least one additional pharmaceutically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of estrogenic compounds, androgenic compounds, progestin compounds, vasodilation agents, calcium salts, and vitamin D and its derivatives, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

19-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~mammals in need of treatment~~ a subject in need of estrogen therapy, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound represented by Formula I:



wherein:

the bond represented by the wavy line may be a single or double bond such that when the wavy line is a single bond,  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronate or other esters, and when the wavy line is a double bond,  $R_1$  does not exist;

$R_2$  is lower alkyl;

$R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, and glucuronide or other esters a conjugate thereof;

~~$R_4$  through  $R_{13}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, ketone, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and carbonyl groups; and~~

$R_4$  through  $R_7$  and  $R_{10}$  through  $R_{13}$  may be the same or different and each represents hydrogen, hydroxy, ketone, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, or carbonyl group;

$R_8$  and  $R_9$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and carbonyl groups; and

$R_{14}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, and glucuronide or ~~other esters~~ a conjugate thereof;

said compound being present in chemically pure form.

22-23. (Cancelled).

24. The method according to Claim 21, wherein said compound is greater than about 95% pure.

25. The method according to Claim 21, wherein  $R_2$  is  $C_1$  to  $C_4$  alkyl,  $R_4$ - $R_{12}$  are hydrogen and  $R_{13}$  is hydrogen or ethynyl.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein when R<sub>1</sub> is ~~hydroxy~~ hydrogen, the compound has a  $\beta$  orientation.

27. The method according to Claim 21, wherein said compound is in conjugated form.

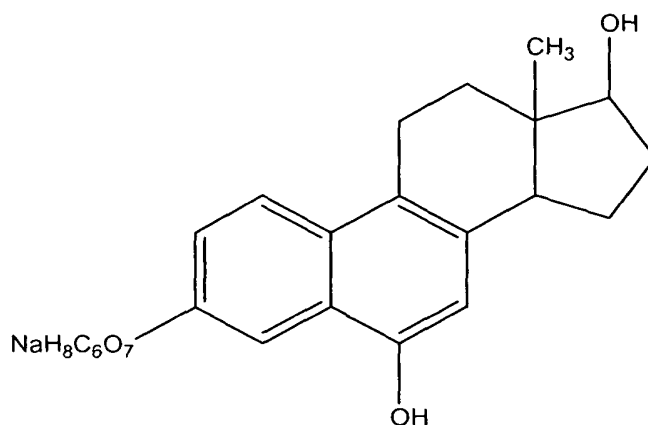
28. The method according to Claim 21, wherein said compound is administered as part of a pharmaceutical composition, said composition further comprising at least one additional pharmaceutically active ingredient.

29. The method according to Claim 28, wherein the at least one additional pharmaceutically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of estrogenic compounds, androgenic compounds, progestin compounds, vasodilation agents, calcium salts, and vitamin D and its derivatives, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

30-31. (Cancelled).

32. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the condition treatable by estrogen therapy is selected from the group consisting of vasomotor symptoms, atrophic vaginitis, osteoporosis, hypoestrogenism due to hypogonadism, hypoestrogenism due to castration, hypoestrogenism due to primary ovarian failure, breast cancer in selected persons with metastatic disease, advanced androgen-dependent carcinoma of the prostate, abnormal uterine bleeding, and kraurosis vulvae.

33. (New) A compound represented by the following Formula:

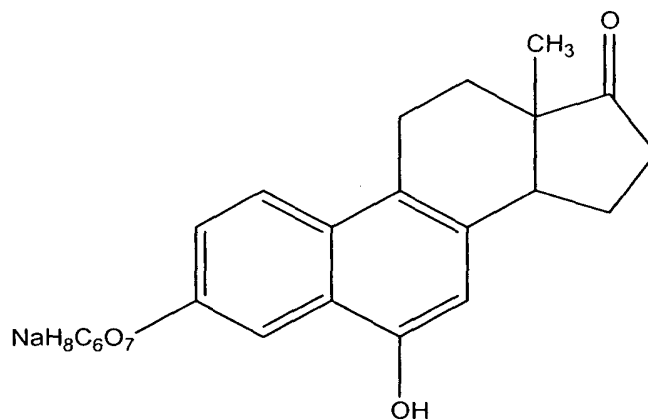


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and said compound has the following physicochemical properties:

having a peak located at about 1.2 ppm on a <sup>1</sup>H-NMR; and

having a peak located at about 45 ppm on a <sup>13</sup>C-NMR.

34. (New) A compound represented by the following Formula:

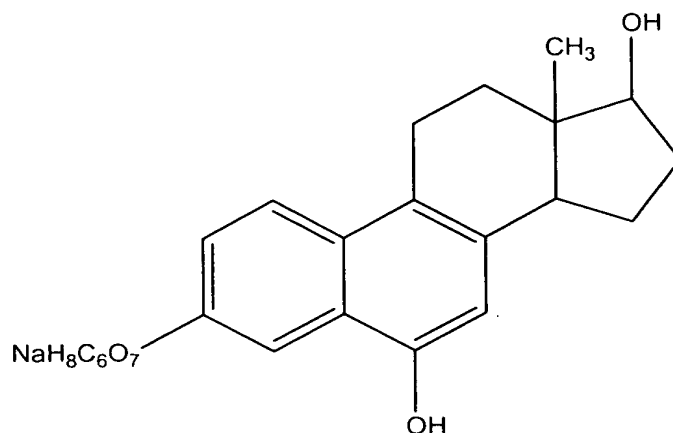


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and said compound has the following physicochemical properties:

having a peak located at about 1.2 ppm on a <sup>1</sup>H-NMR; and

having a peak located at about 45 ppm on a <sup>13</sup>C-NMR.

35. (New) A compound represented by the following Formula:

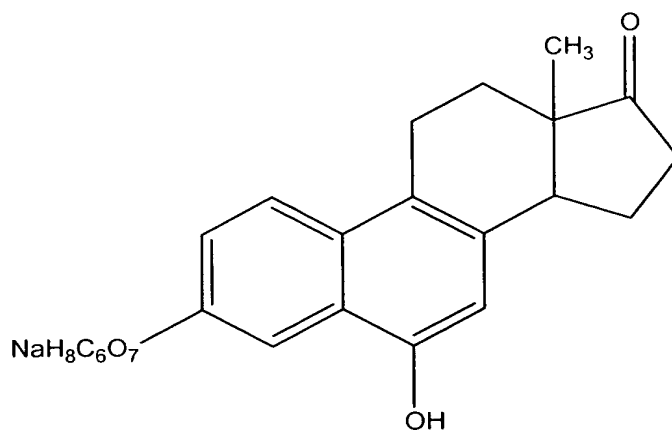


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and said compound has the following physicochemical properties:

having a peak located at about 1.2 ppm on a  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR; and

having a peak located at about 45 ppm on a  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR.

36. (New) A compound represented by the following Formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and said compound has the following physicochemical properties:

having a peak located at about 1.2 ppm on a  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR; and

having a peak located at about 45 ppm on a  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR.